

City of Seattle

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

A. BACKGROUND:

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

The adoption of an ordinance amending the Shoreline Master Program's Conservancy Recreation (CR) shoreline environment to allow as a conditional use certain utility service uses.

2. Name of Applicant:

City of Seattle

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Applicant: City of Seattle
Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
700 – 5th Avenue, Suite 2000
PO Box 34019
Seattle, Washington 98124-4019

Contact: William Mills
206-684-8738

4. Date checklist prepared:

June 7, 2012

5. Agency requesting checklist:

City of Seattle Department of Planning and Development

6. Proposed timing or schedule (include phasing if applicable):

City Council action expected Summer 2012.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansions, or further activities related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain:

No further activities connected with the proposal are proposed.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal:

The following environmental information has been prepared and is directly related to this proposal:

CR Shoreline Master Program Amendment Director's Report 2012

- 9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain:**

This is a non-project action that applies to the CR Shoreline District Permit applications for development within Shoreline District, as described in Item #12, and that would be processed according to the SMP regulations in effect at the time the application vests.

- 10. List any governmental approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known:**

The proposed amendments will require approval by the Mayor, adoption of the proposed regulations by City Council, and the approval of Washington Department of Ecology.

- 11. Give a brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site.**

This is a non-project proposal. The proposal is to update the conditional use section of the CR shoreline environment in the City's Shoreline Master Program (SMP).

The proposed amendment to the SMP would accomplish the following:

Allow utility service uses, such as facilities required to treat and store stormwater and/or combined sewage, as a shoreline conditional use in the CR environment, provided that they reasonably require a shoreline location to operate. All other utility service uses are prohibited.

During the process of developing the comprehensive SMP update, it was identified that the City is required by State and Federal regulations to construct water quality facilities over the next several years, where the most practical and feasible site for those facilities is within the CR shoreline environment. The types of facilities that will be constructed include underground wastewater and stormwater storage tanks and treatment facilities. Under the definitions in the current SMP, these facilities are categorized as "Utility Service Uses", and they are prohibited in the CR environment.

The City department implementing the projects, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), has undergone a thorough public involvement process to site the facilities in the most optimal and publicly acceptable locations with consideration to environmental impacts. The facilities require a shoreline location due to the gravitational nature of the wastewater and stormwater systems.

Consideration was given to including this small SMP update in the more comprehensive SMP update. Unfortunately, the regulatory requirements that have been imposed on the City by the Department of Ecology for implementing its water quality projects require that the small SMP update proceed in advance of the comprehensive SMP update.

For additional information regarding the proposal see the Director's Report, on file with this document, that provides detailed information regarding the proposed changes to the SMP.

- 12. Location of the proposal.** Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

This is a non-project action affecting the CR shoreline environment within the Shoreline District. The CR shoreline environment is found along Puget Sound, Lake Washington, Lake Union and Portage Bay and the Duwamish River in the City of Seattle. This area is shown on Map A, attached at the end of this checklist.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS:

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site: (circle one) Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other:**

Not Applicable. This is a non-project action affecting the Shoreline District; see responses to section 11 above and to part D following.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?**

This non-project action affecting the Shoreline District includes multiple parcels, including some that contain steep slopes greater than 40%.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.**

Not applicable; see above.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.**

Not applicable; see above.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.**

Not applicable; see above.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable; see above.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?**

Not applicable; see above.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, other impacts to the earth, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood, and smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable; see above.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable; see above.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

3. Water

a. Surface

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.**

Not applicable; see above

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.**

Not applicable; see above.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.**

Not applicable; see above.

- 4) **Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable; see above.

- 5) **Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.**

Not applicable; see above.

- 6) **Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.**

Not applicable; see above.

b. Ground

- 1) **Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.**

Not applicable; see above.

- 2) **Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example, domestic sewage, industrial, containing the following chemicals... agricultural, etc). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.**

Not applicable; see above.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water)

- 1) **Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.**

Not applicable; see above.

- 2) **Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable; see above.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Not applicable; see above.

4. Plants

- a. **Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:** Not applicable; see above

☐ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
☐ shrubs
☐ grass
☐ pasture
☐ crop or grain
☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other
☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
☐ other types of vegetation
☐ N/A

- b. **What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?**

Not applicable; see above.

- c. **List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.**

Not applicable; see above.

- d. **Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

5. Animals

- a. **Underline any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:** Not applicable; see above.

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. **List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.**

Not applicable; see above.

- c. **Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.**

Not applicable; see above.

- d. **Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. **What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.**

Not applicable; see above.

- b. **Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable; see above.

- c. **What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

7. Environmental Health

- a. **Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.**

Not applicable; see above.

- 1) **Describe special emergency services that might be required.**

Not applicable; see above.

- 2) **Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

b. Noise

- 1) **What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example, traffic, equipment, operation, other)?**

Not applicable; see above.

- 2) **What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.**

Not applicable; see above.

- 3) **Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?**

Not applicable; see above.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.**

Not applicable; see above.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.**

Not applicable; see above.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?**

Not applicable; see above.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?**

Not applicable; see above.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?**

Not applicable; see above.

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?**

Not applicable; see above.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an environmentally sensitive area? If so, specify.**

Not applicable; see above.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?**

Not applicable; see above.

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?**

Not applicable; see above.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:**

Not applicable; see above .

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

Not applicable; see above.

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.**

Not applicable; see above.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?**

Not applicable; see above.

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?**

Not applicable; see above.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce aesthetic impacts, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

11. Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?**

Not applicable; see above.

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?**

Not applicable; see above.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?**

Not applicable; see above.

- d. **Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

12. Recreation

- a. **What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?**

Not applicable; see above.

- b. **Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.**

Not applicable; see above.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. **Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable; see above.

- b. **Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.**

Not applicable; see above.

- c. **Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

14. Transportation

- a. **Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.**

Not applicable; see above.

- b. **Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?**

Not applicable; see above.

- c. **How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?**

Not applicable; see above.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe. (indicate whether public or private).**

Not applicable; see above.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable; see above.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.**

Not applicable; see above.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:**

Not applicable; see above.

15. Public Services

- a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.**

Not applicable; see above.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.**

Not applicable; see above.

16. Utilities

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.**

Not applicable; see above.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.**

Not applicable; see above.

C. SIGNATURE:

I, the undersigned, state that to the best of my knowledge the above information is true and complete. It is understood that the lead agency may withdraw any declaration of non-significance that it might issue in reliance upon this checklist should there be any willful misrepresentation or willful lack of full disclosure on my part.

Signature: _____
William K. Mills, Senior Land Use Planner,
Department of Planning and Development

Date submitted: June 7, 2012_____

This checklist was reviewed and annotated by:

_____, 2012
Benjamin S. Perkowski, City of Seattle
Senior Land Use Planner, Department of Planning and Development

Date

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NON-PROJECT ACTIONS

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering the questions, be aware of the extent of the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. **How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?**

The proposed amendments would result in no direct impacts, and are intended to reduce polluting discharges to water and release of toxic or hazardous substances. The proposal does not address emissions or noise, which are regulated by other laws.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

No increases will result therefore no avoidance or reduction measures are proposed.

2. **How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish or marine life?**

The proposed amendments would result in allowing as a conditional use utility service uses that treat and store stormwater and/or combined sewage that reasonably require a shoreline location to operate, which will result in a reduction in water pollution. Therefore, there will be an increase in protection of water quality, which in turn will benefit aquatic plants and animals including fish and marine life.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

If vegetation is disturbed or other impacts to ecological functions occur as a result of construction of the a utility service use built in the shoreline environment, the Environmentally Critical Areas regulations and the SMP regulations require that mitigation occur for adverse impacts to achieve no net loss of ecological functions.

3. **How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?**

The proposed changes would result in no direct impacts and do not address the consumption of energy or natural resource.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

None proposed.

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened, or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Approving this amendment to the SMP will allow the City to construct stormwater and wastewater water quality improvement projects in the CR shoreline environment if they reasonably require a shoreline location to operate. The types of facilities that would be allowed in the CR environment by this amendment include underground storage tanks and underground water quality treatment vaults. In order for the facilities to be permitted in the CR environment, they would need to meet the Conditional Use criteria as defined by the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-27-160:

- (a) That the proposed use is consistent with the policies of RCW 90.58.020 and the master program;
 - (b) That the proposed use will not interfere with the normal public use of public shorelines;
 - (c) That the proposed use of the site and design of the project is compatible with other authorized uses within the area and with uses planned for the area under the comprehensive plan and shoreline master program;
 - (d) That the proposed use will cause no significant adverse effects to the shoreline environment in which it is to be located; and
 - (e) That the public interest suffers no substantial detrimental effect.
- The Department of Ecology (Ecology) would be the governing body that approves or rejects the conditional use in the CR environment.

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) would be the governing body that approves or rejects the conditional use in the CR environment.

Additionally, there are no wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, or prime farmlands within the CR shoreline environment; therefore, no adverse impacts will occur to any such area as a result of the proposed amendment. Regarding parks, threatened, or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands and floodplains: The City has existing regulations that protect each of these areas including the Shoreline Master Program, for example SMC 23.60.152 and the Environmentally Critical Areas regulations, SMC 25.09. Impacts will be avoided to the extent feasible because the facilities will only be sited in the CR location if they require a shoreline location to operate. If adverse impacts to any of these areas are identified as a result of a proposed project, mitigation will be required to achieve no net loss of ecological functions.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

The anticipated outcome as a result of the proposed amendment is to increase protection of the water quality in the Shoreline District. Additionally, the existing regulations will require avoidance and reduction of any impact to such resources during permit review of a proposed project. Finally, if adverse impacts exist after avoidance and reduction of these impacts then mitigation actions that achieve no net loss of ecological functions will be required.

5. **How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land and shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?**

Land and Shoreline Use

The proposed amendment to the SMP is to allow treatment and storage of stormwater and combined sewage utility service uses in the CR shoreline environment within the Shoreline District if they reasonably require a shoreline location to operate. Such projects will be located in areas with the least impact to land and shoreline uses and adverse impacts to shoreline use will require mitigation to achieve no net loss of ecological functions.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

None proposed, impacts will be mitigated on a project by project basis through the conditional use and substantial development permit authority of the Shoreline Master Program regulations and the authority of the Environmentally Critical Areas regulations.

6. **How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?**

The proposal is unlikely to result in significant direct, indirect or cumulative impacts related to transportation or public services/utilities. The proposed changes address regulatory processes and status; no adverse transportation or service/utility impacts are identified.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demands are:

None.

7. **Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.**

See the answer to A-11. The proposal responds to a statutory requirement for the City to reduce the frequency of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO), which discharges raw sewage and untreated stormwater to Seattle's waters during storm events. The proposed amendment to the SMP does not conflict with other local, state or federal requirements for protection of the environment. If adverse impacts to the shoreline or environmentally critical areas, these impacts will be mitigated to achieve no net loss of ecological functions.

